



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of **Halseth**

Application No. 09/619,901

Attorney Docket No. 1032-P00101US9

Filed: July 19, 2000

For: Medical Devices with Retractable
Needle

Examiner: Serke, C.

Group Art Unit: 3731

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RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-44 and add claims 45-68 as follows:

45. A medical device, comprising:
- a hollow barrel having a forward end and a first connector;
 - a needle assembly, comprising:
 - a needle having a sharpened tip operable between a projecting position in which the sharpened tip of the needle projects forwardly from the barrel and a retracted position in which the sharpened tip is retracted rearwardly;
 - a spring biasing the needle toward the retracted position; and
 - a second connector that is cooperable with the first connector to attach the needle assembly to the barrel;
 - a plunger displaceable in the barrel to a terminal position in which the plunger is adjacent the forward end of the barrel, said plunger having an internal cavity for receiving the needle in the retracted position and a cover on the end of the plunger covering the internal cavity,
- wherein, upon pushing the rearward end of the plunger forwardly after the plunger is in the terminal position, the cover of the plunger is removed